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SITTINGBOURNE AND MILTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Kent



ANNUAL REPORT


of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for

1957

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S I T T I N G B O U R N E A N D M I L T O N
U R B A N D I S T R I C T C O U N C I L

A N N U A L R E P O R T
of the
M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H
for
1 9 5 7

JOHN T. MURPHY
M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.

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SITTINGBOURNE AND MILTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Chairman:

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Vice-Chairman:

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Councillors:

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Mr. F. Bishop	H
Mr. A. Bottle	H
Mrs. M.M. Boulding	H
Mr. W.A.G. Brett	H
Mr. L.M. Easton	H
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Mr. F. Wills	H
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(C) denotes Chairman of the Health Committee

H denotes Members of the Health Committee

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

John T. Murphy, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR:

Mr. Alexander Leslie, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H., Cert. S.I.B.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR:

Mr. B. Hall, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.

RODENT OPERATOR:

Mr. W.G. Chamberlain

CHIEF CLERK:

Mr. O.A. Kent.

CLERKS:

Mrs. S. Willis

Miss B. Thomas

SITTINGBOURNE AND MILTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



Health Offices,
Johnson House,
Burley Road,
SITTINGBOURNE, Kent.

June, 1958.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary circumstances of the district for 1957.

According to the Registrar General's estimate, the population is 22,260, an increase of 200 over last year and 356 over the 1951 Census figure.

The Births are the highest since 1948 and were 49 more than last year, while there was 1 more Death than in the previous year.

The corrected Birth rate of 17.4 and Death rate of 10.5 compares favourably with that of England and Wales which are 16.1 and 11.5 respectively.

The number of children under one year who died was eleven and of this number eight died during the first week of life. The infantile mortality rate of 28.8 is rather higher than that of England and Wales which is 23.0 and the lowest ever recorded.

The number of children throughout the Country, dying during the first year of life has been progressively diminishing, but the reduction is more marked in children over a month old, due to improved environmental conditions with more enlightened maternal, nursing and medical care.

The least reduction in infant deaths occurs in the period up to one month and this is particularly noticeable in the peri-natal group, a term used to denote the number of children dying within the first week of life combined with the number of still-births. The relatively high peri-natal mortality has remained fairly constant during the past decade and is due to adverse influences on the child before and after birth and over which environmental hygiene has no control.

An exceptionally high incidence of infectious diseases occurred during the year being the highest number of notifications since 1941. Of the 940 cases, Measles accounted for 737 and Whooping Cough 139. Two outbreaks of Scarlet Fever occurring in two schools in the district were nipped in the bud

without much interference with the school life of the children.

This is a good example of modern bacteriological methods in combination with the use of anti-biotics in forestalling an epidemic.

Both the Measles and Whooping Cough were relatively mild and it is to be hoped that with the advent of more widespread immunisation against Whooping Cough that this disease, which is so distressing, especially to babies under one year old, will disappear rapidly.

All the six cases of Poliomyelitis made excellent recovery.

The Influenza epidemic which occurred in the Autumn, reaching its peak in mid October, appeared to affect mostly School Children and young adults. It is pleasing to record that no deaths were notified during the year from Influenza.

The importance of using all modern ancillary means to maintain and improve the health of a community is demonstrated by the rather high incidence of Pulmonary Tuberculosis notifications received during the year. The higher number is undoubtedly due to the increased number of patients found by the Mass Radiography Unit. Without this means of discovery some patients would surely be still working without treatment, injuring their own health and a danger to others.

Immunisation against Diphtheria and Vaccination against Smallpox were at a reasonably high level throughout the year, while a total of 683 children had been vaccinated against Poliomyelitis. The paralytic form of this disease appears to attack only a very small percentage of the population nevertheless the crippling effect seen in a proportion of those who survive, causes great hardship.

I must place on record the thanks of the Public Health Department to two excellent voluntary bodies namely the Old People's Welfare and Tuberculosis Care Committees, who carry out much excellent work.

In the body of the report Mr. Leslie, your Chief Public Health Inspector, calls attention to the unauthorised dumps which occur throughout the district. As there is an excellent free collection for obsolete household goods, people have no excuse for wantonly defacing their town by selecting green open spaces put there for their pleasure, as suitable rubbish dumps.

I would like to thank all the staff of the Public Health Department for their excellent work throughout the year and Mr. A. Leslie, your Chief Public Health Inspector, for his willing assistance and co-operation.

I would also express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their kindness and advice.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN T. MURPHY

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION ISOCIAL CONDITIONS1. Climatology

The Weather forms one of the most controversial topics for discussion. Opinions vary considerably as time goes by, as to how good or how bad - mostly bad - the Weather conditions have been in past years, particularly during the Summer months, and the past Year of 1957 will, no doubt, receive its fair share of adverse criticism.

Apart from what people say, however, it is soon evident, upon looking through the official records, that 1957 was generally more settled and much warmer than many recent years.

The heat-wave which hit, and stayed with, this locality and the Country as a whole, during the second half of June and the first few days of July, sent the temperatures soaring almost to 100° F., which is most exceptional nowadays.

It is also seen from Appendix "A" that the lowest rainfall was recorded since 1953.

The Winter months were generally milder, although temperatures dropped below freezing point on 44 occasions (January - 8; February - 11; March - 4; April - 2; May - 2; September - 1; October - 1; November - 4 and December - 11) in comparison with 80 occasions in 1956.

Falls of Snow, which were rather light, occurred on 4 occasions only (14th and 15th January, and 16th and 19th February) in comparison with 19 occasions in 1956.

A very severe storm occurred during the night of 30th June/1st July, when almost an inch of rain fell, causing serious flooding in many dwelling-houses and streets in various parts of the Town. A second storm was experienced in the early hours of 6th July, when flooding again occurred, involving a few dwelling-houses.

The hottest day of the Year was 1st July, when the temperature reached 98° F. (compared with 89° F. in July, 1956; 93° F. in July, 1955 and 88° F. in May, 1954). The wettest month was July, when the rainfall recorded was 3.91 inches (compared with 4.46 inches in January, 1956; 4.53 inches in October, 1955 and 6.28 inches in November, 1954).

Monthly rainfall readings recorded at Highsted Waterworks over the past six years are shown in Appendix "A" and Appendix "B" shows the monthly maximum and minimum Temperatures for the years 1954, 1955, 1956 and 1957, which were recorded at Johnson House, Sittingbourne.

2. Area in Acres

Land and Inland Water 4,935

No change.

3. Population

The estimated mid-year population for 1957 as given by the Registrar-General, was 22,260 an increase of 200 against the estimated mid-year population for 1956.

It is interesting to note that this estimated population shows an increase of 356 over the Census figure of 21,904 taken in April, 1951.

4. Number of Inhabited Houses

The number of inhabited houses at the end of 1957 was 7,101.

5. Rateable Value

The rateable value at 31st December, 1957, was £297,369 as compared with £306,687 at the end of 1956.

6. Sum Representing Penny Rate

The sum representing a penny rate in 1957 was £1,195 as compared with £1,245 in 1956.

SECTION II

VITAL STATISTICS

1. Births

The number of Births registered during the year was 381, being the highest since 1948 when 397 Births were registered. Since the War, the year in which the highest number of Births occurred was 1947, when 532 Births were registered.

The number of Births each year for the period from 1930 to 1957 will be seen upon reference to the details contained in Table III.

(a) Live Births

				Males	Females	Totals
Legitimate	...	...	...	203 (177)	159 (139)	362 (316)*
Illegitimate	...	...	...	13 (9)	6 (7)	19 (16)
Totals				216 (186)	165 (146)	381 (332)

The percentage of illegitimate births again shows a slight increase, being 5.2% as against 5.0% in 1956 and 4.8% in 1955. The figures for previous years were as follows:-

6.0% in 1954; 5.0% for 1953; 4.5% for each of the years 1952, 1951, 1950 and 1947; 5.3% for 1949 and 3.1% for 1948.

(b) Birth Rate

The crude birth rate per 1,000 of the population was 17.1 in 1957 as against 15.0 in the previous year, 15.6 in 1955, 14.4 in 1954 and 16.2 in 1953. The figures for the years from 1930 to date will be seen upon reference to the details contained in Table III.

The corrected birth rate is 17.4, as compared with 16.1 per thousand for England and Wales as a whole.

(c) Still-Births

Eleven still-births occurred during the year. This is the highest number occurring in one year since 1947 when there were 15 still-births. The figures for the years 1956, 1955, 1954, 1953, 1952 and 1951 were - 7, 4, 7, 6, 3 and 8 respectively.

Footnote:- *Figures in brackets relate to the preceding year.

The percentage of still-births to live births for the year was 2.8%. This compares with the figures of 2.1% for 1956, 1.1% for 1955 and 2.2% for 1954.

There were no illegitimate still-births during the year.

2. Deaths

(a) The number of deaths occurring in and assignable to the Urban District during 1957 was 398. This figure represents 211 males and 187 females.

Figures for previous years as far back as 1930, may be seen upon reference to the details contained in Table III.

Of the 398 Deaths assigned to Sittingbourne during 1957, a total of 194 occurred in Milton Hospital, but only 26 of these were of persons previously resident in the Urban District. The figures for 1956 were 397 - 146 and 20, and for 1955 were 347 - 128 and 23.

The average age of Death was 72.6, being 71.3 for males and 74.0 for females. The oldest death was a female aged 101 years. The average age of death during 1956 was 70.6, being 67.4 for males and 74.1 for females.

The following Table shows the age groups in which the Deaths occurred:-

TABLE I

Sex	Under											85
	1	1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75-	and	Over
Year.												
Males	5	1	-	-	4	4	9	22	40	97	29	
Females	6	-	1	1	-	1	9	10	36	94	29	
Totals	11	1	1	1	4	5	18	32	76	191	58	

(b) Death Rate

The crude death rate for 1957 was 17.8 per 1,000 of the estimated population, as compared with 17.9 per 1,000 in the preceding year. The figures for 1955, 1954 and 1953, were 15.7, 14.4 and 19.7 per 1,000 respectively.

The figure for the year under review can only be compared with those for the years 1956, 1955, 1954 and 1953 due to the inclusion in local statistics of all deaths at Milton Hospital irrespective of original place of residence

under the new arrangements adopted by the Registrar-General which came into force on the 1st January, 1953. However, the figures for previous years back to 1930 are included in Table III.

It is interesting to note that if these particular deaths had not been assigned to this area the number of deaths for the Urban District during these five years, together with the crude death rate appertaining to such figures would have been as follows:-

Year	No. of Deaths	Crude Death Rate
1953	278	12.6
1954	227	10.3
1955	242	11.0
1956	271	12.2
1957	230	10.3

The corrected death rate is 10.5 per 1,000 as compared with 11.5 per 1,000 for England and Wales as a whole.

(c) The causes of death classified by the Registrar-General under the 36 headings based on the Abbreviated List of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death, 1948, are set out in Table II below:-

TABLE II

Cause	Males	Females	Total	
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	- (2)	- (1)	- (3)	x
2. Tuberculosis, other	- (-)	- (1)	- (1)	
3. Syphilitic disease	- (-)	- (1)	- (1)	
4. Diphtheria	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	
5. Whooping Cough	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	
6. Meningococcal infections	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	
8. Measles	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	6 (6)	6 (4)	12 (10)	
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	8 (9)	- (2)	8 (11)	
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	- (-)	12 (8)	12 (8)	
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	- (-)	2 (1)	2 (1)	
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	15 (12)	10 (9)	25 (21)	
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1 (-)	- (-)	1 (-)	
16. Diabetes	1 (1)	- (2)	1 (3)	
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	37 (42)	39 (46)	76 (88)	
18. Coronary disease, angina	31 (28)	11 (26)	42 (54)	
19. Hypertension with heart disease	1 (2)	2 (1)	3 (3)	
20. Other heart disease	69 (44)	78 (59)	147 (103)	
21. Other circulatory disease	2 (13)	3 (6)	5 (19)	
22. Influenza	- (-)	1 (3)	1 (3)	
23. Pneumonia	8 (10)	5 (1)	13 (11)	
24. Bronchitis	6 (12)	2 (5)	8 (17)	
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	- (2)	- (1)	- (3)	
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	- (3)	- (-)	- (3)	
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1 (-)	1 (-)	2 (-)	
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	- (2)	- (1)	- (3)	
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	4 (1)	- (-)	4 (1)	
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	
31. Congenital malformations	1 (-)	3 (1)	4 (1)	
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	12 (14)	10 (8)	22 (22)	
33. Motor vehicle accidents	2 (2)	- (-)	2 (2)	
34. All other accidents	6 (2)	1 (3)	7 (5)	
35. Suicide	- (-)	1 (-)	1 (-)	
36. Homicide and operations of War	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	
All Causes	211 (207)	187 (190)	398 (397)	

Footnote:- x Figures in brackets relate to the preceding year.

(d) The following Table gives details of deaths, births and infantile mortality for the period 1930 to 1957 inclusive.

TABLE III

Year	Population	Deaths		Births					Infant Mortality			
		Number of Deaths at all Ages	Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of the Population	Legitimate	Illegitimate	Total	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the Population	Still-Births	Legitimate	Illegitimate	Total	Deaths of Infants under 1 year of Age per 1,000 Births
1930	19,838	257	12.8	332	20	352	17.6	7	14	1	15	42.6
1931	20,175	226	11.2	339	6	345	17.1	7	10	1	11	31.8
1932	20,320	222	10.9	342	13	355	17.4	12	22	1	23	64.7
1933	20,350	256	12.5	337	13	350	17.1	14	22	-	22	62.8
1934	20,480	265	12.9	321	8	329	16.0	10	16	2	18	54.7
1935	20,700	237	11.4	340	8	348	16.4	15	11	-	11	31.6
1936	20,920	245	11.7	296	11	307	14.6	15	12	-	12	39.0
1937	20,880	244	11.6	322	13	335	16.0	1	11	-	11	32.8
1938	20,950	218	10.4	293	10	303	14.4	14	9	1	10	33.0
1939	20,860	262	12.4	318	10	328	15.7	15	8	1	9	27.4
1940	20,670	280	13.5	311	9	320	15.4	10	18	1	19	59.3
1941	19,880	247	12.4	257	11	268	13.4	7	6	-	6	22.3
1942	19,270	233	12.0	291	18	309	16.0	9	16	-	16	51.7
1943	18,790	249	13.2	334	14	348	18.5	13	17	-	17	48.8
1944	18,790	231	12.2	340	31	371	19.7	9	16	4	20	53.9
1945	19,140	236	12.3	350	34	384	20.0	11	12	3	15	39.0
1946	21,040	230	10.9	419	31	450	21.3	12	13	1	14	31.1
1947	21,560	248	11.5	509	23	532	24.4	15	17	-	17	31.9
1948	22,240	228	10.2	385	12	397	17.8	7	8	-	8	20.1
1949	22,150	271	12.2	355	19	374	16.8	7	15	-	15	37.4
1950	22,340	228	10.2	328	15	343	15.3	7	8	-	8	23.3
1951	21,920	265	12.0	332	15	347	15.8	8	14	-	14	40.3
1952	21,940	244	11.1	331	15	346	15.7	3	9	-	9	26.0
1953	21,930	433	19.7	340	17	357	16.2	6	16	-	16	44.8
1954	21,940	318	14.4	298	18	316	14.4	7	4	-	4	12.6
1955	21,970	347	15.7	327	16	343	15.6	4	4	-	4	11.6
1956	22,060	397	17.9	316	16	332	15.0	7	8	1	9	27.1
1957	22,260	398	17.8	362	19	381	17.1	11	11	-	11	28.8

3. Infantile Mortality

(a) Eleven deaths of Infants under one year of age were recorded during the year under review as compared with 9 in 1956 and 4 in 1955.

The infant mortality rate for the year has risen to 28.8 per thousand live births and this is the highest rate since 1953 when the figure was 44.8 per thousand live births. The rate for 1956 was 27.1 and the figures for previous years may be seen upon reference to Table III.

The infant mortality rate for England and Wales as a whole was 23.0, and it will be noted that the local rate is considerably higher than this figure.

Of the 11 deaths recorded, 8 were infants under four weeks of age, resulting in a Neo-Natal mortality rate of 20.9 per thousand live births as compared with that for England and Wales as a whole of 16.5 per thousand live births.

(b) The detailed causes of death among infants during 1957 were as follows:-

TABLE IV

Cause	Sex	Age at Death	Place of Birth	Place of Death
Prematurity	M	1 day	Hospital	Hospital
Pneumonia	F	7 months	Home	Hospital
Bronch-Pneumonia	F	1 month	Hospital	Hospital
Atelectosis - Prematurity...	M	6 hours	Hospital	Hospital
Bronch-Pneumonia	M	1 week	Hospital	Hospital
Spinal Meningococle Hydro-Cephalus and Multiple Congenital Abnormalities...	F	5 days	Hospital	Hospital
Foetal Abnormality Toxaemia of Pregnancy	F	10 minutes	Hospital	Hospital
Atelectosis - Prematurity...	F	2 days	Home	Hospital
Bronch-Pneumonia	M	2 days	Nursing Home	Hospital
Congenital Heart - Pulmonary Stenosis	M	2 days	Home	Hospital
Pulmonary Oedema	F	6 months	Home	Home

SECTION III

INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

THEIR PREVALENCE AND CONTROL

1. Notifiable Diseases - Incidence

A very heavy incidence of Measles in the last quarter of the Year was responsible for an exceptionally large number of notifications of notifiable infectious diseases being received in the Public Health Department. The total of notifications received actually amounted to 940, being the highest since 1941, when 1,073 cases were received.

Notifications during the Year under review were received as follows:-

1st Quarter - 36; 2nd Quarter - 79; 3rd Quarter - 208; 4th Quarter - 617.

In 1956 a total of 47 cases only were notified and in 1955 the total amounted to 516 cases. The incidence of infectious diseases over the past twelve years will be seen upon reference to Table VIII.

The epidemic of Measles although expected was not anticipated to reach such large proportions. The figure of 737 cases being the second highest number of notifications in one year, since this particular disease was classified as 'notifiable' in 1940. A full report of the Measles epidemic is contained in Appendix "H". There were 959 cases reported in 1941.

It is interesting to note that of the 737 cases notified, 404 were School Children; 331 were Children under School age, and 2 were Adults aged 34 and 38 years respectively.

During the year, 25 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified, and these were 16 School Children; 8 Children under School age, and 1 Adult aged 22 years. Thirteen of these patients were admitted to Keycol Hospital to receive the necessary treatment, and it was found possible to isolate the other 12 cases at home whilst treatment was being given.

Two small outbreaks occurred in Schools, i.e. Milton Regis County Primary Infants' School and Mission Room School, Canterbury Road, Sittingbourne. Reports on these outbreaks are contained in Appendix "G". I am most grateful to the three Health Visitors at Johnson House (Kent County Council Staff) for the considerable assistance which they so willingly gave in the taking of swabs during these outbreaks.

Whooping Cough was rather overshadowed by the Measles epidemic, but the incidence was quite heavy in this respect, a total of 139 cases being reported. These were - 66 School Children; 72 Children under School age and 1 Adult aged 40 years. In the years 1956 and 1955, a very small number of cases were reported, amounting to 11 and 5 respectively. There were, however, 168 cases

notified during 1954. As will be seen from Table VIII, cases of Whooping Cough appear to occur in the Urban District every third year.

The single case of Pneumonia notified was a School Child aged 6 years. This child was admitted to Keycol Hospital.

Food Poisoning notifications were received concerning 5 cases occurring in two separate outbreaks. Two of the cases reported were in connection with an outbreak in a Maidstone Factory at which they were employed, and the other 3 cases were in one local family. After the usual investigations had been made it could not be established that this latter small outbreak was due to any particular cause and no particular agents were identified.

Of the 6 cases of Poliomyelitis notified, 4 were paralytic and 2 non-paralytic, and all cases were admitted to Keycol Hospital to receive the necessary treatment. The paralytic cases were - a male aged 24 years; a School Child aged 6 years; and 2 Children under School age, of $2\frac{1}{2}$ and 2 years respectively. One of the non-paralytic cases was a female, aged 28 years, the other case being a School Child aged $7\frac{1}{2}$ years. It is very pleasing to report that all 6 cases have since been discharged from Hospital.

For the tenth successive year, there were no cases of Diphtheria notified.

Influenza is not a 'notifiable disease' but a report on the outbreak in the Urban District is included in this Report, as Appendix "I".

(a) The total number of cases occurring, number of cases admitted to Hospital and the total deaths from each disease as shown in the Registrar-General's classification of deaths, are shown in the following Table:-

TABLE V

Disease.						No. of Cases.	Admissions to Hospital or Sanatorium.	Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	25 (13)	13 (9)	- (-)
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	737 (6)	- (-)	- (-)
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	139 (11)	1 (-)	- (-)
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	...	...	5 (-)	- (-)	- (-)
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	...	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	- (1)	- (1)	- (-)
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	1 (-)	1 (-)	13 (11)
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	...	- (1)	- (-)	- (-)
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	6 (-)	6 (-)	- (-)
Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
Tuberculosis:-								
Pulmonary	...	...	...	...	...	27 (15)	20 (14)	- (3)
Non-Pulmonary	...	...	...	...	...	- (-)	- (-)	- (1)
Totals						940 (47)	41 (24)	13 (15)

Footnote:- * Figures in brackets relate to the preceding year.

(b) The distribution by age group of the cases notified is shown in Table VI thus:-

TABLE VI

Age Groups of Cases Notified

Disease.			Under 1 Year	1 - 3	3 - 5	5 - 10	10 - 15	15 - 25	25 - 35	35 - 45	45 - 60	60 and Over	Total
Scarlet Fever	...	...	-	1	6	16	1	1	-	-	-	-	25
Diphtheria	...	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	...	...	16	125	178	408	8	-	1	1	-	-	737
Whooping Cough	...	...	11	25	31	65	5	-	1	1	-	-	139
Food Poisoning	...	...	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	2	5
Dysentery	...	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	...	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	...	...	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	-	2	-	2	-	1	1	-	-	-	6
Meningitis	...	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis:-													
Pulmonary	...	...	-	-	-	-	-	9	3	1	11	3	27
Non-Pulmonary	...	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals			27	153	215	492	14	13	7	3	11	5	940

(c) The monthly incidence of Notifiable Infectious Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) in the Urban District, during 1957, is shown in the following Table VII:-

TABLE VII

Monthly Incidence of Notifiable Infectious Diseases
(other than Tuberculosis)
during 1957

Disease	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total
Scarlet Fever	2	4	3	-	3	-	-	-	2	6	2	3	25
Measles	6	-	-	-	3	11	7	62	55	105	258	230	737
Whooping Cough	2	-	5	19	17	28	36	12	14	-	6	-	139
Food Poisoning	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	5
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	1	-	-	-	6
Totals	10	7	8	19	23	39	44	81	72	111	266	233	913

(d) Table VIII shows the number of cases of Infectious Diseases notified each year during the past twelve years.

TABLE VIII

Disease.	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
Smallpox ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	49	24	18	49	37	18	29	26	67	34	13	25
Diphtheria ...	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles ...	114	75	438	222	544	226	297	332	-	439	6	737
Whooping Cough	36	33	188	63	86	219	32	26	168	5	11	139
Food Poisoning	-	28	15	2	3	1	-	-	-	3	-	5
Dysentery ...	-	4	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas ...	4	4	3	7	8	5	2	2	5	4	1	-
Pneumonia ...	4	1	3	6	1	1	4	2	3	-	-	1
Typhus Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Typhoid and Para-Typhoid Fever ...	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Fever)	2	2	1	-	1	3	-	1	1	1	1	-
Puerperal Pyrexia ...)												
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis	-	4	-	-	2	5	5	2	2	8	-	6
Encephalitis Lethargica ..	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cerebro Spinal Fever ...	6	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malaria ...	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

2. Tuberculosis

During the year, a total of 27 new cases of Tuberculosis were notified, and all of these were of the Pulmonary type. It is rather disturbing to report that this figure represents the highest number of new cases notified in one year since 1930, when 33 new cases (30 Pulmonary and 3 Non-Pulmonary) were received. It is understood, however, that the majority of these new cases notified during the year under review, were found during the visit of the Mass Radiography Unit to the Urban District in the month of July.

The age groups of new cases notified are shown in Table IX, and Table X gives a Summary of Cases on the Tuberculosis Register during 1957, from which it will be seen that the total number of cases has risen from 240 at the beginning of the year to 267 at 31st December, 1957.

TABLE IXAge Groups of New Cases of Tuberculosis Notified during 1957

Age Group	Type	Total	Male	Female
0 - 1	Pulmonary	-	-	-
1 - 5	"	-	-	-
5 - 10	"	-	-	-
10 - 15	"	-	-	-
15 - 20	"	3	1	2
20 - 25	"	6	2	4
25 - 35	"	3	1	2
35 - 45	"	1	-	1
45 - 55	"	6	5	1
55 - 65	"	6	5	1
65 and Over	"	2	1	1
Totals		27	15	12

It will be noted that no cases of the Non-Pulmonary type were notified during the year.

TABLE XSummary of Tuberculosis Register

	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Total
On Register on 1st January, 1957 ..	206	34	240
Notified as 'new' Cases	27	-	27
Transferred to District	2	1	3
Restored to Register	-	-	-
Totals	235	35	270
Died	-	-	-
Recovered	2	-	2
Removed from District	1	-	1
Diagnosis Changed	-	-	-
Totals	3	-	3
Balance remaining on Register on 31st December, 1957	232	35	267

The bare figure of 267 cases remaining on the Tuberculosis Register does not, perhaps, appear to be a particularly large number, but when this figure is taken in relation to the Population, an entirely different picture is shown as it will be seen that 1 person in every 83 local residents is suffering from this disease.

During the year a total of 25 patients from the Sittingbourne Area received Institutional treatment, as shown in the Table below, the particulars of which again kindly being supplied by Owen Clarke, M.D., M.R.C.P., Consultant Chest Physician of the Medway and Gravesend Hospital Management Committee.

The Table indicates that 9.3% of the patients on the Tuberculosis Register were admitted to Hospital or Sanatoria for treatment during 1957, as compared with 7.9% in 1956; 13.6% in 1955; 10.2% in 1954; 7% in 1953 and 11% in 1952.

<u>Institution</u>							<u>Patients</u>
Grove Park Hospital, London	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Keycol Sanatorium, nr. Sittingbourne	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Preston Hall Hospital, Maidstone	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
							<hr/>
Total							25
							<hr/>

The following Table XI gives details of Notifications Received, Deaths and the Death Rate per 10,000 of the Population, for both Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary cases, during the period from 1930 to 1957 inclusive.

TABLE XI

Year	Number of Primary Notifications Received		Deaths		Death Rate per 10,000 of Population	
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
1930	30	3	24	3	12.1	1.5
1931	19	8	11	2	5.4	0.9
1932	20	3	11	2	5.3	0.9
1933	24	1	17	1	8.3	0.4
1934	15	3	17	1	8.3	0.4
1935	12	7	9	2	4.3	0.9
1936	12	5	10	1	4.7	0.4
1937	12	9	13	-	6.2	-
1938	12	4	8	2	3.8	0.9
1939	13	4	13	2	6.2	0.9
1940	11	1	11	1	5.3	0.4
1941	9	3	7	1	3.5	0.5
1942	15	4	8	-	4.0	-
1943	9	4	8	3	4.2	1.5
1944	14	3	7	1	3.7	0.5
1945	22	2	7	1	3.0	0.5
1946	14	2	9	1	4.0	0.4
1947	19	5	6	2	2.8	0.9
1948	19	6	8	1	3.5	0.4
1949	20	3	10	2	4.5	0.9
1950	18	6	1	1	0.4	0.4
1951	15	2	3	-	1.3	-
1952	17	1	3	1	1.3	0.4
1953	16	-	4	-	1.8	-
1954	19	3	-	1	-	0.4
1955	19	1	2	-	0.9	-
1956	15	-	3	1	1.3	0.4
1957	27	-	-	-	-	-

Much good work has been carried out during the Year by the Members of the Sittingbourne, Milton and District Tuberculosis Care Committee, in relieving the many anxieties of patients in the Urban District.

Assistance was given in 56 cases of which 9 were new cases brought to the notice of the Committee. The sum of £273 was expended in providing such necessities as clothing, bed linen, heating and lighting, grocery, fares, Christmas extras and occupational therapy. The Scheme for providing Holidays for deserving and recommended cases was continued. Six patients, with their families, benefited by this Scheme, spending Holidays at such resorts as Bognor Regis, Cliftonville, and Deal, at a total cost of almost £160.

The record of the Care Committee, over the years, is one of which they can be justifiably proud.

3. Venereal Diseases

I am again indebted to the Director and Medical Officer in Charge of the Special Clinic in Rochester, (C.D. Routh, M.D., M.R.C.P.), supplied by the Medway and Gravesend Hospital Management Committee, who has kindly given me the following information regarding cases and numbers of attendances from this Urban District during the Year. These are as follows:-

Disease	Males	Females	Total
Syphilis	1 (-)	1 (-)	2 (-) *
Gonorrhoea	- (1)	- (1)	- (2)
Non-Venereal (Genital Lesions) ...	10 (14)	7 (9)	17 (23)
Totals	11 (15)	8 (10)	19 (25)

The above refer to new cases during the Year.

The total number of patients under treatment, both old and new, in the Urban District during 1957, was 32, as compared with 47 in 1956.

The total number of attendances at this Clinic was 250 as compared with 220 in 1956. The attendances in previous years were - 279 in 1955; 319 in 1954; 262 in 1953; 191 in 1952; 308 in 1951 and 424 in 1950.

Footnote:- * Figures in brackets relate to the preceding Year.

4. Vaccinations and Immunisations

The County Medical Officer of Health (Dr A. Elliott) has very kindly supplied figures in connection with Diphtheria Immunisation and Vaccination against Smallpox and Poliomyelitis, as follows:-

(a) Diphtheria Immunisation

During the year the following cases have been protected against Diphtheria:-

Under 5 years	...	...	...	259	(235)*
5 - 14 years	...	...	...	19	(30)
Reinforcing dose	...	...	...	232	(295)

The number of children under the age of 15 years on 31st December, 1957, who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date amounted to 3,598.

(b) Vaccination Against Smallpox

The following cases were vaccinated against Smallpox during 1957:-

Under 1 year	...	...	...	161	(137)*
1 - 4 years	...	...	...	94	(64)
5 - 14 years	...	...	...	9	(5)
15+ years	...	...	...	11	(14)

The number of children re-vaccinated during 1957 amounted to 6, as compared with 8 in 1956.

(c) Vaccination Against Poliomyelitis

During the year ended 31st December, 1957, a total of 683 children resident in the Urban District received a course of two injections against Poliomyelitis.

5. International Certificates of Vaccination

During the year, 127 International Certificates of Vaccination were presented to the Department by local people leaving the Country, for the Medical Officer of Health to Authenticate the Signatures of the Doctors concerned.

These people were travelling to such countries as South Africa, Southern Rhodesia, East Africa, Malta, Cyprus, Turkey, Germany, Malaya, Singapore, New Zealand, Australia, Bermuda, Newfoundland, Canada and the United States of America.

In 1956, 62 Certificates were dealt with by the Department.

Footnote:- *Figures in brackets relate to the preceding year.

SECTION IV

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES
IN THE AREA

1. National Health Services

Local Authority Health Services under the National Health Service Act are provided and administered by the Kent County Council as the local Health Authority. These Services include the Care of Mothers and Young Children; the provision of Midwives; Health Visiting and Home Nursing; Vaccination and Immunisation; Prevention of Illness, Care and After Care and Domestic Help Services.

The following list shows the dates and times of all Clinics, together with the particular Centre at which they were held during 1957.

Clinics and Sessions	Date	Time
<u>Sutton House, London Road,</u> <u>Sittingbourne:-</u>		
Orthopaedic (by Appointment)	Tuesday and Friday	10 a.m. - 12 noon 2 - 4.30 p.m.
Domestic Help Service	Wednesday	2 - 4 p.m.
<u>Johnson House, Burley Road,</u> <u>Sittingbourne:-</u>		
Infant Welfare	Tuesday and Friday	2 - 4 p.m.
Relaxation Classes (by Appointment)	Thursday	10.15 - 11.15 a.m.
Mothercraft Classes (by Appointment)	Thursday	9.30 - 10.15 a.m.

(Note:- Vaccinations and Diphtheria Immunisations are given at the Infant Welfare Clinic, if required.)

Footnote:- The Kent County Council completed the transfer of their Staff and Services from Johnson House to Sutton House, London Road, Sittingbourne, on Monday, 21st April, 1958. Since this date, all Infant and Child Welfare, School Health and Dental Services have been held at Sutton House.

The Ante-Natal, Post-Natal and Family Planning Clinics at Johnson House were closed in March, 1956. Expectant Mothers have since attended their own Doctors or Midwives for inspection and advice. Due to no other accommodation being available, however, a room has been made available at Johnson House, each Wednesday afternoon, for two Midwives to hold a Clinic for the Expectant Mothers in their particular Districts.

After representations by the Local Authority to the Kent County Council, an Infant and Child Welfare Clinic was opened at the Congregational Hall, Crown Road, Milton Regis, for the benefit of Mothers and Children in the Milton and Kemsley areas, on Thursday, 13th June, 1957. This Clinic is held fortnightly, i.e. on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays in each month, from 2 - 4 p.m., when a Doctor and a Health Visitor are in attendance.

Due to the large numbers of Mothers attending, it was found necessary to make arrangements for the Milton Clinic to be opened weekly, instead of fortnightly as stated in the above paragraph, and this Clinic was opened accordingly from 2nd January, 1958. On the other hand, owing to the drop in numbers attending at Johnson House, arrangements were made for the Tuesday afternoon Clinic to be closed from the first week in 1958.

The three Health Visitors (Kent County Council Staff) at Johnson House, who cover the Sittingbourne and Milton Urban District, are - Mrs E.M. Gibson, Miss P. Holmes and Miss B. Clarke.

Mental Welfare is provided by the Regional Hospital Board for patients from the Urban District, at 13, South Road, Faversham. The Sessions for this Clinic are held on Thursday evenings at 5 o'clock.

A Nursery Class for partially deaf children between the ages of three and five years has been established in Gillingham and was actually opened during the month of June, 1957. Children from the Sittingbourne District are able to attend this Clinic.

2. Hospitals and Nursing Homes

(i) Hospitals

There are two Hospitals in the Urban District, as follows:-

(a) Memorial Hospital, Bell Road, Sittingbourne (Tel.No: Sitt.19).

The Visiting Hours at this Hospital are -

Sunday	-	2 p.m. until 4 p.m.
Monday	-	7 p.m. until 8 p.m.
Wednesday	-	2 p.m. until 4 p.m.
Friday	-	7 p.m. until 8 p.m.

(b) Milton Hospital, North Street, Milton Regis (Tel.No: Sitt.68).

This Hospital has a Residential Section for Aged People, and Hospital facilities for the Infirm and Chronic Sick.

(c) Cases of Infectious Disease, including patients suffering from Tuberculosis, are admitted for treatment to Keycol Hospital, Keycol Hill, Key Street, nr. Sittingbourne (Tel.No: Newington 222), which is situated on the main London Road, just outside the Urban District boundary. At this Hospital, there is also a Chest Clinic (Tel.No: Newington 387) at which Out-Patients suffering from Tuberculosis and other associated Chest complaints attend for X-Ray and for periodic examinations by the Consultant Chest Physician.

(ii) Nursing Homes

There are two Nursing Homes in the Urban District, as follows:-

(a) Lynton Nursing Home

This Nursing Home is situate at 80, Park Road, Sittingbourne (Tel.No: Sitt.629), and is under the personal direction of the Principal, Miss M.K. Masters, S.C.M.

The Home is registered for Maternity Cases only, for whom 4 beds are allowed and provided.

As will be seen from the following Table, a total of 112 Maternity Cases were delivered during 1957, of which 96 were local residents. The figures for 1956 were 102 and 86 respectively. It is interesting to note from this Table, the wide Area from which Mothers attended this Home for their confinements.

TABLE XII

Home District	Number of Maternity Cases delivered	
	1957	1956
Sittingbourne	96	86
Doddington	2	1
Newnham	1	1
Eastling	1	1
Faversham	3	4
Teynham	3	2
Rainham	-	2
Canterbury	-	1
Newington	-	3
Throwley	1	1
Chatham	1	-
Gillingham	1	-
Maidstone	1	-
Bicknor	1	-
Boughton	1	-
Totals	112	102

(b) Beverley Private Nursing Home

This Nursing Home, which was actually registered on 27th January, 1958, is situate at 44, Park Road, Sittingbourne (Tel.No: Sitt.1155), and is under the personal direction of the Principal - Mrs. Patricia M. Bray, S.R.N.

The Home is registered as a Nursing Home for Medical, Chronic and Convalescent cases, both male and female, and provides accommodation for a maximum number of 7 patients.

Visiting Hours are - Each day from 10 a.m. onwards.

These two Nursing Homes are, without doubt, fulfilling a very real need not only for the Residents of Sittingbourne and Milton Urban District, but also for many people requiring such services and living in the immediate surrounding localities.

3. Laboratory Services

The Pathologist's Clinic at Johnson House was closed in April, 1956.

Patients, together with Pathological specimens, have, since this date, been referred to the Pathologist at All Saints Hospital, Chatham.

4. School Health Services

I am very grateful to the County Medical Officer (Dr. A. Elliott) for once again providing me with a copy of the Annual Report on the School Health Services in the Urban District during the Year under review, from which the following are interesting extracts:-

(a) Children inspected, treatment required and frequency of main defects found, are as follows:-

(i) Number of Children inspected						
(Periodic Inspections)	...	...	...	1,374	(1,690)	*
(ii) Number found requiring treatment			...	112	(152)	
(iii) Percentage	...	...	...	8.1%	(8.9%)	
(iv) Frequency of main defects found:-						
Orthopaedic defects	...	...	...	6.2%	(13.1%)	
Eyes	...	...	...	59.8%	(67.7%)	
Nose and Throat	...	...	...	2.6%	(2.6%)	
Developmental (including hernia)	...		...	1.7%	(1.9%)	
Ears	...	...	...	1.7%	(3.2%)	
Psychological	...	...	...	14.2%	(3.2%)	

Footnote:- * Figures in brackets relate to the preceding Year.

It will be noted that 1,374 Children were inspected during the year, and 112 (8.1%) of these were found to require certain treatment. These figures compare very favourably with those for 1956, when 152 (8.9%) of the Children inspected required treatment. The percentages for previous years were 11.0% in 1954, 10.3% in 1953 and 9.9% in 1952.

The one point of interest in the above information is that defects in connection with Psychological development and stability have increased considerably from 3.2% in 1956 to 14.2% in 1957. It will also be seen that Eye defects still form the majority of defects found, being 67 (59.8%) of the Children requiring treatment.

(b) The classification of Children inspected in accordance with their general condition is as follows:-

		Number Inspected	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Entrants ...	...	388 (348)	387 (341)	1 (7)*
Second Age Group ...	...	141 (354)	141 (354)	- (-)
Third Age Group ...	...	322 (323)	322 (322)	- (1)
Other Periodic Inspections ...	...	523 (665)	521 (661)	2 (4)
		1,374 (1,690)	1,371 (1,678)	3 (12)

(c) The total number of attendances at the Minor Ailments Clinics was 313, as compared with 134 in 1956, 171 in 1955 and 178 in 1954. The number of defects was 189 as compared with 111 in 1956, 146 in 1955 and 149 in 1954.

The considerable increase in attendances and the treatment required, was due mainly to minor injuries and bruises etc, i.e. 168 in 1957 as against 99 in the previous year.

The majority of conditions treated were as follows:-

Minor injuries (including bruises, sores, chilblains, etc.) ...	...	88.8% (89.1%)*
Skin diseases ...	...	3.7% (2.7%)
Eye diseases ...	...	7.4% (7.2%)
Ear conditions ...	...	- ( 0.9%)

Footnote:- *Figures in brackets relate to the preceding year.

(d) Dental Inspections and treatment figures are as follows:-

Number inspected by Dental Officers	...	...	2,504	(3,445)	*
Number found requiring treatment	...	...	1,244	(1,833)	
Percentage	...	...	49.6%	(53.2%)	
Number actually treated	...	...	735	(620)	
Percentage	...	...	29.3%	(17.9%)	

(e) Infestation with Vermin

(i) Total number of examinations in the Schools by the School Nurses or other authorised persons	...	...	2,832	(4,651)	*
(ii) Total number of individual pupils found to be infested	...	...	49	(15)	
(iii) Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing notices were issued (Section 54(2)), Education Act, 1944	...	...	-	(9)	

5. National Assistance Act, 1948 (Section 50)

The Department was not called upon to deal with any cases during the year.

6. National Assistance Act, 1948 (Section 47) as amended by National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951, (Section 1).

One case of an elderly Lady was referred to the Department during the year, by the National Assistance Board, for action under this Act.

After this Lady had been visited, it was found that there did not appear to be any action necessary as the person seemed quite capable of looking after herself and the house in which she resided was in a reasonably clean condition. This person's own Doctor was, however, approached and he promised to visit the case occasionally to see that all was well with this Lady.

7. Old People's Welfare

I am indebted to Councillor Mrs Noble for Information relating to the Old People's Welfare. I have extracted the following from her report.

It is very rewarding to know that the general public are becoming more conscious of the need for Welfare amongst the old and frail. The spiritual needs as well as temporal needs of the aged are both taken care of by this Voluntary Organisation. Many Old People find it impossible to attend a place of Worship. Over 150 Christmas Cards and Birthday Cards, were sent out during the year and 190 bags of Coal together with many food parcels were distributed at Christmas.

The Night Sitting Service is proving to be of great help and comfort to Old People who are very ill and often in much need due to having no relative to come to their aid. During the year a total of 254 nights were covered by the 'Night Sitters' an increase of over 50% on the previous year. Unfortunately there are still not enough 'Night Sitters' available and more are required to cover adequately the demands made upon this particular Service, but perhaps by means of increased publicity more helpers may be obtained to give their services in this Section which does carry out much valuable work.

The 'Night Sitters' are, at times, rather apt to consider themselves as 'Cinderellas' or the 'forgotten Service', but they can rest assured that the services they render are among the most important in the Old People's Welfare Organisation.

Draw Sheets are issued to 'Night Sitters' or District Nurses, when there is obvious need of more linen for the patients concerned.

Still more Voluntary Visitors are needed, together with two Area Organisers.

The demands upon the Chiropody Service have increased considerably, 296 treatments being given during the year as compared with 192 in the previous year.

The two Old People's Clubs in the District continue to be very well supported and fulfil a necessary and useful purpose.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA1. Water Supply

The whole of the Urban District has, since the 1st April, 1956, been supplied from the Council's Undertaking.

The supply has, during the year under review, been adequate both in quality and quantity.

Twenty samples were submitted for examination and all were found to be satisfactory.

A complaint was received concerning the formation of a jelly-like substance in the body of a water filter attached to a tap on the Council's water service. An analysis indicated that the substance was aluminium hydroxide. Further investigations were made, when it was found that the filter was made of an aluminium alloy and that the inner protective coating was showing signs of deterioration. The aluminium hydroxide had been formed by the action of water on the exposed surfaces. The Analyst reported that the chemical composition of the water as supplied was not in doubt but that this was a fairly common phenomenon.

2. Drainage and Sewerage

(a) No major alterations have been made to the Council's sewerage system during the year. The main developments were in connection with the sewerage of new housing estates, both Council and privately owned.

(b) The quality of the final effluent from the sewage disposal Works continues to be unsatisfactory. Little or no progress has been made during the year to reach a satisfactory solution of the difficulties associated with the effective treatment of sewage at the Works. The investigation of the effect on the Works of trade waste continues. Little significant progress has been made in this direction. It must be admitted that this is a difficult problem and the solution of this particular aspect is necessarily long and laborious.

(c) Routine treatments against rodents in the sewerage system were continued during the year. A new departure was the use of Warfarin (an anti-blood coagulant) in the treatments. The results so far are promising and the incidence of rodents in the sewers appears to be at a reasonably low level.

3. Scavenging

(a) The administration of the Council's refuse collection and disposal service is under the control of the Engineer and Surveyor. Disposal is by means of tipping.

(b) Disposal of refuse at the tip continues to be reasonably satisfactory.

(c) It is regrettable that once more it must be recorded that a minority of the townspeople persist in disposing of rubbish of every description on any available plot of vacant land. This practice, whilst being quite unnecessary, having regard to the adequate collection and disposal system provided by the Council, is also costly in terms of money and potentially could be the cause of a deterioration in the public health which cannot be measured in monetary terms. Surely it is not asking too much of the people concerned to have some thought for their fellow townspeople, to use the services provided and show a pride in the cleanliness and tidiness of the town in which they live.

4. School Sanitation

The sanitary facilities provided at the Schools are maintained in a satisfactory manner. The opening of new Schools in the town is raising to a high level the standard of these facilities and must have a far reaching effect in inculcating in the children's minds an appreciation and a desire for high standards of hygiene.

On the whole, the standard of hygiene in the School kitchens continues to be first class. It is regretted that it has not yet been found possible to start the major scheme of dining facilities at the Murston School, where the existing facilities are very poor.

In most of the other School kitchens, work has steadily proceeded to bring them up to the standard prescribed under the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955.

5. Public Conveniences

The Conveniences provided were generally maintained in a clean and satisfactory condition.

The provision of free hand-washing facilities in 8 (5 Gents and 3 Ladies) Conveniences situate in different parts of the area makes it possible for users of the Conveniences to practice the precept of personal hygiene. This extension of facilities has been generally appreciated but unfortunately there has been some abuse of the facilities provided by a very small minority of people. It is confidently hoped that this is a phase which will pass and that shortly the people responsible for the abuse will realise the foolishness and futility of their actions and cease causing wilful damage, and thus enable a fuller use of the facilities provided for the people using the Conveniences.

6. Public Swimming Baths

(a) The popularity of the swimming baths during the year is emphasised by the attendance of 42,336 swimmers.

(b) The standard of cleanliness is satisfactory and the quality of the water, as evidenced by the Analyst's reports upon the four samples submitted, was excellent.

(c) Pre-cleansing facilities for bathers could be improved by the provision of heavily chlorinated water barriers between the changing rooms and the bath itself. In the absence of such barriers bathers are encouraged to make the maximum use of the existing facilities.

7. Mortuary Accommodation

The only public mortuary facilities in the town are at one of the Chapels at the Sittingbourne cemetery.

During the year, the mortuary was used for three bodies. This figure shows a decline from the previous year, when 13 bodies were accommodated.

8. Service of Notices requiring the execution of works or the Abatement of Nuisances

- (a) 346 informal notices served (426) *
- (b) 211 statutory notices served (63)
- (c) 249 informal notices complied with (269)
- (d) 112 statutory notices complied with (80)

9. Visits made by the Public Health Inspectors

The number of visits paid by the Public Health Inspectors during the year is shown in Appendix "E".

10. Complaints

During the year, a total of 460 complaints were received from tenants of non-Council Houses and Council Houses in connection with alleged unsatisfactory conditions.

The following Summary gives the details of such complaints received each month:-

Month	Complaints received from -	
	Tenants of Council Houses.	Tenants of Non-Council Houses.
January	6	45
February	4	27
March	2	22
April	3	30
May	14	28
June	4	21
July	7	44
August	16	47
September	5	44
October	2	31
November	2	29
December	<u>2</u>	<u>25</u>
TOTALS	<u>67</u>	<u>393</u>

The complaints were investigated and appropriate action was taken to remedy the conditions found.

Footnote: * Figures in brackets relate to the preceding year.

SECTION VIINSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD1. Milk Supply

The following are the details of registration under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949 to 1953 the Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949 and the Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949 to 1953.

(a) Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949 to 1953

57 Milk Distributors and 7 Dairies were registered under the above Regulations.

(b) Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949 to 1953.

During the year 53 licences were issued under the above Regulations analysed as follows:-

Sterilised (Dealers')	...	...	...	...	...	...	45
Pasteurised (Dealers')	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Pasteurised (Dealers' Supplementary)	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

(c) Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949 to 1953.

During the year 7 licences were issued under the above Regulations, analysed as follows:-

Tuberculin Tested (Dealers')	....	...	...	...	...	...	5
Tuberculin Tested (Dealers' Supplementary)	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

(d) Examination of Milk Supplies

(i) 10 samples of milk were submitted for bacteriological or other prescribed examination at the Public Health Laboratory, Maidstone. The reduction in the number of samples submitted was mainly due to the fact that the bulk of the supply is in the hands of two main suppliers and it appeared unnecessary to duplicate samples from different milk purveyors obtaining their supply from the same source.

The following Table shows details of the results obtained:-

TABLE XIII

Designation	Number of Samples	Result	
		Satisfactory	Un- satisfactory
Pasteurised and Heat-Treated Milks	10 (20)	10 (20)	- (-)*
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised Milk)	- (1)	- (1)	- (-)
Totals	10 (21)	10 (21)	- (-)

(ii) Two samples of raw milk were submitted for biological examination during the year. These samples were free from Tubercle infection.

(iii) All the milk supplied in the town is either pasteurised or tuberculin tested. To this fact may largely be attributed the decline in the incidence of non-pulmonary tuberculosis in humans residing in the town.

Footnote:- * Figures in brackets relate to the preceding year.

2. Meat

(i) Two private slaughterhouses were licensed for the use of Butchers in the Town, and 178 visits were paid to these slaughterhouses during the year.

One hundred per cent inspection of all animals presented for slaughter was maintained throughout the year. The number of animals presented for slaughter showed an increase during the year from 1,001 to 1,288.

(ii) The small amount of meat condemned in the slaughterhouses (1,186 lbs) is dyed green and disposed of under guarantee to a firm of bi-product manufacturers.

The Department's transport collects foodstuffs condemned in Food Shops and this is disposed of under suitable safeguards at the Council's tip.

(iii) Table XIV shows the details of the animals slaughtered and inspected together with the numbers affected with disease.

The Table is in accordance with Ministry of Health Circular 17/55, dated 23rd November, 1955, so as to include horses slaughtered for human consumption among the animals, and cysticercosis among the diseases.

TABLE XIV

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.	Horses.	Total.
Number Killed ... (if known)	148	1	-	200	939	-	1288
Number Inspected	148	1	-	200	939	-	1288
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci.							
Whole carcasses condemned ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	10	1	-	6	211	-	228
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ...	6.7	100.0	-	3.0	22.4	-	(10.2)* 17.7
Tuberculosis only. Whole carcasses condemned ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	5	-	-	-	7	-	12
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	3.3	-	-	-	0.7	-	(1.5)* 0.9
Cysticercosis.							
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	3	-	-	-	-	-	3
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration ...	3	-	-	-	-	-	3
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Footnote:- * Figures in brackets relate to the preceding year.

3. Other Foodstuffs Examined

(i) The details of foodstuffs of all types condemned during the year are shown in Appendix "D".

(ii) 10 complaints relating to the presence of foreign bodies in food were made during the year.

The foods involved in the complaints were - in 3 cases milk; in 1 case dried milk; in 2 cases bread; in 1 case a bread roll; in 1 case strawberry jam; in 1 case a meat pie and in 1 case Yoghourt.

The foreign bodies complained of were dirt in 3 milk bottles; dark specks in dried milk which on analysis proved to be caramelised lactose; a fly and a piece of brown paper in 2 loaves of bread; a piece of string in a bread roll; a ball bearing in a 2 lb jar of strawberry jam; a piece of hide in a meat pie and a glass splinter in a bottle of Yoghourt.

All the complaints were thoroughly investigated and appropriate steps were taken to prevent a recurrence of similar incidents. It was clear that the cause of most of the complaints was the carelessness of the food handler. In the case of dirt in milk bottles it was pointed out to the milk processor that the system of spotting for dirty bottles required alteration so that an employee was not kept on the vital job of spotting for too long a period. It is well known that in a job of this sort the human critical faculty becomes dulled after a short time and it is necessary to give relief from the monotony of the job by switching jobs around at reasonable intervals.

In all cases cautions were given to the firms concerned.

(iii) A complaint was received of the presence of a metallic taste in canned pineapple cubes. Samples were submitted to the County Analyst who reported that there was evidence of action of the contents on the tin to a greater or lesser degree. Whilst the samples examined were not dangerous to health two of them were at least of poor merchantable quality.

The matter was brought to the notice of the supplier of the canned pineapple cubes and they in turn took the matter up with the Malayan packer.

An interesting complaint brought to the Department illustrated the necessity for dealing with none other than established and reputable suppliers of food equipment. A local baker had the metal bowl of his dough mixer retinned by an itinerant tinsmith. On using the mixer after retinning, he noticed that the dough was of a much darker colour than usual and immediately notified the Department.

The goods manufactured were voluntarily discarded by the baker as a safety precaution. An analysis of the products did not reveal the presence of metallic substances in any significant amount. The baker, however, was not prepared to risk possible contamination of his products and obtained a new mixing bowl.

4. Shellfish

No case of illness attributable to shellfish was notified during the year.

The sale of shellfish from mobile vendors continued during the year. This class of trade is difficult to control. The question of control would be simplified if all mobile food vendors were required to be licensed to operate in a local authorities area.

The public are once again reminded that the consumption of shellfish purchased from dealers, other than reputable and well established firms, can involve serious risk to themselves.

5. Fish Frying

(i) Eight fish frying establishments are in operation in the area.

(ii) 12 visits of inspection were made during the year.

(iii) The standard of Hygiene continues to be satisfactory.

6. Ice Cream

(i) The numbers of premises registered for the manufacture, storage or sale of ice cream are:-

Sale and storage of Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	87	(82) *
Storage of Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	3	(4)
Manufacture of Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	8	(8)

(ii) Seven samples of ice cream were submitted for examination by the Provisional Modified Methylene Blue Reductase Test, with the following results:-

				1957	1956
Grade I	...	...	...	7 (100%)	4 (100%)
Grade II	...	...	...	- (-)	- (-)
Grade III	...	...	...	- (-)	- (-)
Grade IV	...	...	...	- (-)	- (-)

(iii) The majority of ice cream sold in the Town is produced by National manufacturers and invariably is sold pre-packed. No difficulty has been experienced in the supervision of this Trade during the year.

Footnote:- *Figures in brackets relate to the preceding year

7. Bakehouses

- (i) Eight bakehouses are registered and in operation in the area.
- (ii) Thirty-four visits of inspection were made during the year.
- (iii) The condition of these premises during the year, with one exception, was found to be satisfactory.

8. Restaurant Kitchens

- (i) The number of restaurant kitchens (including Works canteens and School kitchens) in the area is - 33.
- (ii) The standard of hygiene attained was on the whole satisfactory. The co-operation of the Trade in securing improvements and maintaining standards on the whole has been good.
- (iii) The new industrial canteen at Kemsley Mill is worthy of mention as being in the forefront of this type of premises. It is well designed and equipped and there is apparent, an obvious desire on the part of the management to maintain nothing but the highest standards.

9. Public Houses

- (i) The number of Public Houses in the area is - 48.
- (ii) The premises, with one exception, have been conducted in a satisfactory manner.
- (iii) A number of improvements to premises have been carried out during the year as part of the Departments scheme for the progressive improvement of licensed premises.

10. Food Preparing Premises

- (i) Twenty-three premises are registered for the manufacture of sausage and preserved foods.
- (ii) Improvements at various premises have been carried out, or started, to bring them up to the standards required under the Regulations. Generally the premises have been maintained in a satisfactory manner.

11. General Hygiene in Food Premises

Work in connection with the implementation of the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955 continued throughout the year. Unspectacular but steady and real progress has been made in the modernisation of premises. It is pleasing to record that the spirit of co-operation between the food trader and the Council's Officers continues to be of a high order. There is an increasing tendency for prior consultation when alterations and improvements are under consideration. This attitude can be productive of benefits to all concerned.

12. Details of Inspection

These details are shown in Appendix "D".

13. The Number and Type of Food Premises in the Area.

These details are shown in Appendix "F".

14. Samples taken by the Food and Drugs Authority.

I am very grateful to the Chief Inspector, Weights and Measures Department, County Hall, Maidstone (Mr S. Strugnell), for again supplying the details shown overleaf of samples of food taken by the County Sampling Officers in the Urban District of Sittingbourne and Milton, during 1957, under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938:--

Article		No. of Samples		Article		No. of Samples	
Ac'cent Condiment	1	Total Brought Forward		36	
Biskoids	1	Meat Pies ...	...	...	1
Blackcurrant Jam	1	Milk ...	...	...	43
Bread	1	Miracle Whip Cream	...	...	1
Camphorated Oil	1	Oil of Cloves B.P.	...	...	1
Chocolate Liqueurs	1	Orangeade ...	...	...	1
Clear Soup Concentrate	1	Orange Crunch	...	...	1
Cocktail Cherries	1	Paraffin Sauce Dressing B.P.	...	...	1
Coffee and Chicory Essence	2	Paynocol ...	...	...	1
Compound Codeine Tablets	1	Pickled Red Cabbage	...	...	1
Cottage Cheese	1	Puff Pastry	...	...	1
Cream Soda	1	Rapid Cold Cure	...	...	1
Cut Mixed Peel	1	Raspberry Jam	...	...	1
Damson Jam	1	Ready-Brek	...	...	1
Dijon Mustard	1	Sal Volatile	...	...	1
Duo Gestan	1	Sausage Rolls	...	...	1
Fairy Cakes	1	Self-raising Flour	...	...	2
Forfar Shortbread	1	Shortcake	...	...	1
Frumalo	1	Shortcake Biscuits	...	...	1
Gin	3	Soy Sauce ...	...	...	1
Ginger Beer	1	Sparkling Portello	...	...	1
Glace Cherries	1	Strawberry Jam	...	...	1
Gooseberry Jam	1	Tea ...	...	...	1
Ground Almonds	2	Tonicus Viride	...	...	1
Horlicks	1	Yellow Angel Cake	...	...	1
Ice Cream	3				
Kwick Set	1				
Lemonade	1				
Lemon Curd	1				
Lemon Squash	1				

Summary

Milk	...	...	...	43
Drugs	...	...	...	10
Spirits	...	...	...	3
Other samples			...	47

Total	103
-------	-----

All the above samples were genuine with the exception of the following:-

Sample of:	Analysis:	Action Taken:
Duo Gestan	Composition consistent with formula, except that there is no diastatic action	Makers notified. Stocks withdrawn from sale.
Channel Islands Milk	Fat 3.8%, Solids not Fat 8.7%; 5% deficient in fat	Due to improper mixing. Further samples satisfactory.

SECTION VIIDISINFECTION, DISINFESTATION AND RODENT CONTROL1. Disinfection

(i) Sixty-four rooms at 52 premises were disinfected on account of infectious disease during the year.

(ii) During the year, a total of 17 dwelling-houses were flooded by storm or sea water, as reported in Section VIII, 3(e) on Page 57. The occupants of these houses were issued with disinfectant to assist them in their cleansing operations.

(iii) All library books found at premises where a case of notifiable disease has occurred have been disinfected by formaldehyde before being returned to circulation.

(iv) Steam disinfection continues to be carried out at the Milton Hospital by the courtesy of the Medway and Gravesend Hospital Management Committee. Every co-operation and assistance is received from the Administrator of the Hospital and his Staff in carrying out this work.

2. Disinfestation

(i) The following tables indicate the work carried out during the year:-

(a) Bed Bugs

					Infestations			
					Premises		Rooms	
Council Houses	...	...	...	...	2	(3)*	4	(7)*
Other Houses	...	...	...	...	11	(2)	28	(3)
Totals					13	(5)	32	(10)

Footnote:- *Figures in brackets relate to the preceding year.

(b) Fleas

					Infestations	
					Premises	Rooms
Council Houses	...	...	...	...	1 (-)*	1 (-)*
Other Houses	...	...	...	...	7 (16)	17 (62)
Other Premises	...	...	...	...	- ( - )	- ( - )
Totals					8 (16)	18 (62)

(c) Other Insect Pests
(Ants, Beetles and Flies)

Council Houses	...	...	...	...	5 (22)	6 (35)
Other Houses	...	...	...	...	14 (8)	18 (10)
Other Premises	...	...	...	...	2 (5)	2 (6)
Totals					21 (35)	26 (51)

(ii) Other disinfestations carried out during the year were as follows:-

(a) At the Sittingbourne Police Station, one cell was treated on account of Vermin.

(b) At the Swimming Baths, the towel store was treated on account of beetles and ants.

(c) A compost heap at King George's Field was treated on 3 occasions on account of flies.

(d) A manure dump at a private house was treated on 2 occasions on account of flies.

(e) The outside walls of 4 Council Houses were treated on account of Clover Mite.

(f) The outside walls of 10 Council Houses were treated on account of Earwigs.

(g) The outside walls of 2 Council Houses and one Private House were treated on account of Ants.

(h) Routine treatment of Civil Defence bedding was carried out on account of Moths.

Footnote:- * Figures in brackets relate to the preceding year.

(iii) In addition 83 Wasps' and 4 Bees' Nests were treated and destroyed, and the usual anti-mosquito measures were carried out in ponds and other sites.

Necessary treatments were also carried out to obviate nuisances caused by foxes and rabbits at Old Milton Sewer Beds and Tunstall Orchards respectively.

(iv) The main insecticides used during the year were 5% D.D.T. in Kerosene and Gammexane.

(v) The number of visits made during the year by the Department's Operator in connection with disinfection and disinfestation was 629 as compared with 488 visits in 1956.

3. Rodent Control

(i) The Council employ one part-time Rodent operator.

(ii) Table XV gives details of the work carried out during the year.

(iii) The number of visits made during the year was 1965 (including routine survey visits) as against 2422 visits in the previous year.

(iv) In addition to the above, the usual maintenance treatments of the Council's sewerage system were carried out during the year.

TABLE XV

	Type of Property				
	Local Authority.	Dwelling-Houses.	Agricultural.	All other (including Business Premises).	Total.
i. Total number of properties in Local Authority's District.	18	7101	16	687	7822
ii. Number of properties inspected by the Local Authority during 1957, as a result of -	(a) 9 (3)	143 (163)	2 (6)	47 (28)	201 (200) *
(a) notification,	(b) 9 (8)	54 (134)	6 (1)	10 (91)	79 (234)
(b) survey, and	(c) - (3)	26 (19)	- (-)	123 (122)	149 (144)
(c) otherwise					
iii. Number of properties inspected (under Section ii) found to be infested by rats.	Major 4 (6)	- (-)	- (-)	- (1)	4 (7)
	Minor 9 (3)	92 (111)	4 (6)	16 (8)	121 (128)
iv. Number of properties inspected (under Section ii) which were found to be seriously infested by mice.	1 (-)	51 (60)	- (-)	32 (22)	84 (82)
v. Number of infested properties (see Section iii and iv) treated by the Local Authority.	14 (9)	143 (171)	4 (6)	48 (31)	209 (217)

Footnote:- *Figures in brackets relate to the preceding year.

SECTION VIIIHOUSING1. Inspections

The number and character of inspections carried out during the year in connection with housing is as follows:-

(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected during the year for housing defects	366	(504) *
(b) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidation Regulations ...	59	(21)
(c) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	67	(14)
(d) Number of houses found defective in some essential particular	307	(406)
(e) Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notice	249	(269)
(f) Reinspections of houses	2,296	(2,679)
(g) Action under the Statutory Powers during the year:-		
(i) Proceedings under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936	1	(-)
(ii) Proceedings under Public Health Act	211	(63)
(iii) Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 and Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1957.	45	(15)
(iv) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936	-	(-)

Footnote:- *Figures in brackets relate to the preceding year.

(v) Action under Section 25 of the
Housing Act, 1936:-

No of Areas represented as unfit.	No. of Dwellings in the Areas.	No. of Dwellings demolished during the year.
- (-)	- (-)	1 (23)*

2. Provision of Houses

The Engineer and Surveyor (Mr A.W. Lloyd) has kindly supplied the following information in connection with the number of houses built each year since the end of the War:-

TABLE XVI

Year	Council Houses		Police Houses	Private Enterprise	War destroyed houses re-built	Total
	Temporary	Permanent				
1946	50	33	-	2	-	85
1947	-	57	-	5	-	62
1948	-	44	-	3	2	49
1949	-	70	-	3	8	81
1950	-	72	-	7	8	87
1951	-	82	-	8	4	94
1952	-	140	2	2	-	144
1953	-	118	-	3	-	121
1954	-	200	11	34	-	245
1955	-	94	6	13	-	113
1956	-	82	-	52	-	134
1957	-	72	-	128	-	200
Totals	50	1,064	19	260	22	1,415

Footnote:- *Figures in brackets relate to the preceding year.

3. Repair and Maintenance of Houses

(a) The repair of houses gained a new momentum during the year, particularly in the latter part of the year when the provisions of the Rent Act, 1957 came into operation. The position, however, is not satisfactory. Much remains to be done to bring many houses up to a reasonable standard of repair and thus preserve their usefulness for a further extended period.

In view of the slowing up of the Council's house building programme, in the National interests, this aspect of housing work takes on an even greater importance and ranks equal with the eradication of the obviously unfit house.

In spite of publicity, owners of property are reluctant to make use of the Council's Loan facilities to enable them to bring houses up to a proper standard.

It will be interesting to see what real affect the full implementation of the Rent Act, 1957 has on this problem.

(b) Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954.

No applications were received during the year in connection with Certificates of Disrepair under the above-named Act. There were, however, 7 Revocation Certificates issued during 1957 and 2 original Certificates of Disrepair were cancelled due to 1 becoming under the ownership of the occupier and the other being closed and an undertaking not to relet being accepted from the owner.

Since the Act came into force a total of 27 Certificates of Disrepair have been issued, of which 15 have been revoked and 2 cancelled, leaving 10 Certificates remaining outstanding at the 31st December, 1957.

(c) Rent Act, 1957

This Act came into force on 6th July, 1957 and from this date until 31st December, 1957, a total of 32 Applications were received in connection with Certificates of Disrepair.

The following information details the position regarding these applications, together with the action taken:-

1. Total number of Applications for Certificates of Disrepair	...	32
2. Total number of notices (Forms 'J') issued by Local Authority to Landlord of Proposal to issue a Certificate of Disrepair	...	32
3. Total number of decisions by Local Authority not to issue Certificates of Disrepair	... ..	Nil

4. Total number of Undertakings (Forms 'K') given by Landlord to remedy defects proposed to be included in Certificate of Disrepair	25
5. Total number of Certificates of Disrepair (Forms 'L') issued	7
6. Applications by Landlords to Local Authority for Cancellation of Certificates of Disrepair	Nil
7. Total number of Notices (Forms 'RC2') issued by Local Authority to Landlord of Cancellation of Certificate of Disrepair	Nil

(d) Improvement Grants - Section 20, Housing Act, 1949

During the year, 29 applications for Grants in connection with Improvement Schemes, were submitted to the Council. These were all approved.

The total cost of the works involved in these approved applications, amounted to £10,118 and the total of the Grants allowed was £4,947.

There were 24 Completion Certificates issued during the year and 9 of these were in respect of applications received during 1956.

The Improvement Schemes were, as in previous years, mainly concerned with the provision of bathrooms, internal water closets and hot water systems.

It is to be regretted that in spite of strong efforts to interest owners of rented houses to avail themselves of the Improvement Grant facilities the majority of applications come from owner/occupiers.

A summary of the Improvement Schemes submitted, together with details of Completion Certificates issued, cost of works involved and Grants allowed, is included in Table XVII, covering the years 1955, 1956 and 1957.

TABLE XVII

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

YEAR	Number of Improvement Schemes Submitted and Approved.	Number of Completion Certificates Issued	Number of Approved Schemes Cancelled at Applicants' Request	Total Cost of Approved Applications	Total Amount of Grant
1955	25	8	2	£ 4,888	£ 2,436
1956	20	24	2	5,856	2,919
1957	29	24	-	10,118	4,947
TOTALS	74	56	4	20,862	10,302

(e) Houses - Flooding

(i) On the night of 30th June/1st July, 1957, a severe storm caused flooding from surface water to 16 dwelling houses in the Sittingbourne Area, as follows:-

2 houses in West Street
1 house in Frederick Street
6 houses in Crown Quay Lane and
7 houses in Cockleshell Walk.

The occupants of these houses were immediately issued with disinfectant to assist them in their cleaning operations and, in addition, grants were made from the Chairman's Flood Relief Fund in certain cases where damage had been caused to floor coverings, i.e. linoleum and carpets.

(ii) In the early hours of Thursday, 26th September, 1957, flooding occurred in the Milton Area, due to a high tide.

Fortunately, the area in which flooding took place was where houses had been demolished in connection with approved slum clearance schemes, one occupied dwelling-house only - in Kingsmill Road - was flooded.

The occupier of the house was issued with disinfectant and authorised to purchase a supply of coke to assist in drying out the premises. The cost of the coke being met from the Chairman's Flood Relief Fund.

4. Rehousing

The Housing Officer (Mr B. King) has kindly supplied the following figures regarding rehousing in the Urban District.

(i) During the year, it was found possible to provide housing accommodation for 159 families, as follows:-

- (a) 1 family rehoused in existing temporary houses (13) *
- (b) 21 families rehoused in pre-war Council houses (32)
- (c) 132 families rehoused in post-war Council houses (175)
- (d) 5 families rehoused in privately owned houses by arrangement with Owners' consent (15)

(ii) In addition to the above-mentioned families rehoused by the Council, it is known that 3 applicants were rehoused by other Authorities and 23 others found accommodation privately. These figures compare with 6 and 20 respectively in 1956, and 6 and 30 respectively in 1955.

Footnote:- *Figures in brackets relate to the preceding year.

5. Housing Applications

The Housing Officer has also very kindly supplied the following information regarding Housing Applications.

(a) The following Table shows the details of the number of applicants in the various categories on the Council's Housing List at 31st December, 1957:-

TABLE XVIII

1. Number of Applicants on 'Live List'	...	...	491 (473)*
2. Number of 'Late Applications'	...	...	149 (161)
Total Number of Applicants			640 (634)

(b) Table XIX shows the various classes into which the applicants on the 'Live List' fall:-

TABLE XIX

	No.	%
1. Single Applicants	33	6.7
2. Applicants who are tenants of houses within the Urban District	217	44.1
3. Applicants living in rooms as sub-tenants of lodgers within the Urban District	241	49.0
Total	491	

6. Common Lodging House

One Common Lodging House is registered, the accommodation available being 30 beds.

The premises are now coming to the end of their useful life and the question of closure and the consequential problems of closure are now being studied by the Department.

Footnote:- * Figures in brackets relate to the preceding year.

SECTION IX

FACTORY ADMINISTRATION

Factories Act, 1937

(i) Number of Factories on Register:-

(a) Factories (Mechanical Power)	...	...	...	...	92
(b) Factories (No Mechanical Power)	...	...	...	...	12
(c) Other Premises	...	...	...	...	4

(ii) Number of Inspections:-

(a) Factories (Mechanical Power)	...	...	...	...	86
(b) Factories (No Mechanical Power)	...	...	...	...	5
(c) Other Premises	...	...	...	...	4

(iii) Number of Written Notices:-

(a) Factories (Mechanical Power)	...	...	...	...	6
(b) Factories (No Mechanical Power)	...	...	...	...	-

(iv) Cases in which defects were found:-

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector
Want of Cleanliness (S.1.)	5	4	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2.)	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3.)	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4.)	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.)	1	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7.):-				
(a) Insufficient	-	1	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or Defective	2	3	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-
Totals	8	8	-	-

APPENDIX "A"RAINFALL

Recorded at Highsted Waterworks

Month			Rainfall (inches)					
			1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
January	...	...	2.31	0.81	1.79	3.66	4.46	1.69
February	...	...	0.96	0.97	2.27	2.07	0.89	3.53
March	...	...	3.89	0.19	1.97	1.60	0.44	0.79
April	...	...	0.98	1.74	0.22	0.17	1.12	0.19
May	...	...	0.90	2.43	1.69	4.35	0.68	1.66
June	...	...	1.19	2.86	4.16	2.78	2.05	1.97
July	...	...	0.71	2.52	2.45	2.45	3.93	3.91
August	...	...	3.10	1.60	4.15	2.95	3.50	2.51
September	...	...	4.04	3.08	1.43	2.18	1.91	2.35
October	...	...	2.23	2.13	2.18	4.53	1.37	1.01
November	...	...	4.38	1.36	6.28	0.74	0.81	2.02
December	...	...	2.57	0.66	1.78	1.92	3.12	2.54
Total Rainfall			27.26	20.35	30.37	29.40	24.28	24.17

APPENDIX "B"TEMPERATURES

Recorded at Johnson House, Sittingbourne

Month	Maximum				Minimum			
	1954	1955	1956	1957	1954	1955	1956	1957
January ...	58°	53°	56°	60°	14°	19°	24°	28°
February ...	56°	59°	48°	58°	16°	22°	10°	27°
March ...	63°	60°	70°	69°	28°	23°	22°	28°
April ...	68°	78°	72°	72°	28°	30°	27°	30°
May ...	88°	72°	86°	72°	36°	36°	30°	30°
June ...	82°	82°	81°	97°	42°	41°	38°	39°
July ...	80°	93°	89°	98°	43°	49°	47°	48°
August ...	86°	86°	87°	84°	46°	46°	41°	41°
September ...	85°	85°	81°	78°	38°	39°	39°	30°
October ...	72°	72°	72°	72°	30°	26°	31°	31°
November ...	62°	66°	62°	64°	29°	22°	19°	26°
December ...	61°	63°	59°	53°	27°	23°	26°	20°

APPENDIX "C"DETAILS OF FOODSTUFFS OF ALL TYPESCONDEMNED DURING 1957

		Lbs.	Lbs.
(a) Condemned at Slaughterhouses:-			
Portion of Heifer	Localised Tuberculosis	22	
Edible Offal		1,164	1,186
(b) Condemned in Shops:-			
Meat	...	411	
Fish	...	140	
Miscellaneous Foodstuffs (including canned Milk, Meat, Fruit, Vegetables, Fish, Jam, etc.)	..	5,383	5,934
Total Lbs.			7,120

Total - 3 Tons 3 Cwts 2 Qrs 8 Lbs

(1 Ton 7 Cwts 2 Qrs 11 Lbs) *

Footnote:- * Figures in brackets relate to the preceding year.

APPENDIX "D"DETAILS OF INSPECTION

Inspection of Houses									Inspections	
No. of Houses inspected (Public Health and Housing Acts)										
First Inspections - not visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	366	
No. of Houses reinspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2296	
No. of Houses inspected and recorded (S.3 Housing Act, 1957)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	<u>59</u>	2721
Premises										
Accumulations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18	
Butchers...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	78	
Cinemas and Amusement Places	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	
Common Lodging House	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	
Dairies and Milkshops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	35	
Fresh Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22	
Fried Fish and Chip Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	
Fruit and Vegetable Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15	
Food Vehicles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23	
Markets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	
Mortuary	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	
Offensive Trades	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	
Outworkers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	
Pets Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	
Premises to examine Foodstuffs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	81	
Provision Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	90	
Public Conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30	
Public Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	91	
Restaurant and Restaurant Kitchens	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	68	
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	
Shops (under Shops Act)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	
Shops (reinspections)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Food Preparing Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25	
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	178	
Smoke Observations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	
Swimming Baths	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	
Systematic Inspection of District	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	
Tents, Vans and Sheds, etc	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	27	
Tips	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	
Water courses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	<u>6</u>	892
Total c/f									<u>3613</u>	

					Inspections	
Total b/f					3613	
Rat Infestation (not recorded elsewhere)						
Houses Inspected (first inspections)	...	...	...	...	3	
Houses Inspected (reinspections)	...	...	...	...	3	
Other Premises (first inspections)	...	...	...	...	6	
Other Premises (reinspections)	...	...	...	...	<u>6</u>	18
Enquiries or Visits						
Contractors or Owners interviewed	...	...	...	...	186	
Contacts of Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	128	
Notifiable Diseases	...	...	...	...	37	
Other Diseases	...	...	...	...	2	
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	504	
Rent Act, 1957	...	...	...	...	132	
Office Interviews	...	...	...	...	374	
Port Visits	...	...	...	...	12	
Lectures	...	...	...	...	8	
Civil Defence - Welfare	...	...	...	...	78	
Flooding	...	...	...	...	34	
Housing Tenancies	...	...	...	...	145	
Improvement Grants	...	...	...	...	<u>180</u>	1820
Food and Drugs and Other Sampling						
Samples of Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	7	
Samples of Swimming Bath Water	...	...	...	...	4	
Samples of Water obtained - Bacteriological Examination	...	...	...	...	20	
Samples of Milk obtained - Bacteriological	...	...	...	...	10	
Samples of Milk obtained - Biological	...	...	...	...	2	
Miscellaneous Bacteriological Specimens	...	...	...	...	<u>13</u>	56
Factories						
Factories with Mechanical Power - Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	29	
- Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	57	
Factories without Mechanical Power - Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	5	
- Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	<u>-</u>	91
Total					5598	
					<u>(6082)*</u>	

Footnote:- * Figures in brackets relate to the preceding year.

APPENDIX "E"

NUISANCES AND DEFECTS REMEDIED DURING 1957

Works Executed

Houses								Totals
Accumulations removed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	33
Ashbins provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	44
Brickwork of walls repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Bedding cleansed or destroyed		...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Chimneys repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Ceilings repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Damp-proof courses inserted	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Doors and frames repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Floors renewed or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Grates or Ovens repaired or renewed			...	...	...	...	...	6
Inside plastering repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Miscellaneous repairs and nuisances abated				...	...	...	...	3
Roofs renewed or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	35
Rain water pipes or gutters renewed or repaired					...	...	...	10
Washing coppers provided or repaired			...	...	...	...	...	1
Window cords renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Window sashes or frames renewed or repaired				...	...	...	...	9
Yard paving relaid or repaired		...	...	...	...	...	...	<u>6</u>
								245
Drainage								
Drains tested, Smoke	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Drains re-laid	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Drains repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Drains cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Gullies fixed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Inspection or Interception chambers provided				...	...	...	...	2
Inspection or Interception chambers repaired				...	...	...	...	2
Sinks provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Sinks trapped or waste pipes repaired			...	...	...	...	...	<u>5</u>
								42
	Total c/f							287

Total c/f

287

Water Closets

Additional Water Closets provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	
Flushing apparatus provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Flushing apparatus repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	17	
Miscellaneous repairs	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	
New pans and traps fixed	...	...	...	...	...	...	16	
Water Closets cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	<u>1</u>	49

Cesspools and Septic Tanks

Abolished and house connected to sewer	2	
Emptied	<u>2</u>	4

Tents, Vans, Sheds

Removed	<u>1</u>	1
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Food Shops, Kitchens, and Premises Used for Preparation
or Manufacture of Preserved Foods

Accumulations removed	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Ashbins provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	
Cleanliness improved	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	
Other repairs	...	...	...	...	...	...	16	
Water supply provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	<u>3</u>	33

Fried Fish Shops

Ashbins provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Cleansing carried out	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	
Other repairs	...	...	...	...	...	...	<u>4</u>	8

Food Premises

Wash-hand basin	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Locker Accommodation	...	...	...	...	...	...	<u>2</u>	3

Total

385

(793) *

Footnote:- * Figures in brackets relate to the preceding year.

APPENDIX "F"

LIST SHOWING NUMBER AND TYPE OF FOOD SHOPS
IN THE AREA

	Type	Number
1.	Meat Shops (including Shops carrying out the preparation and/or manufacture of preserved foods)	23
2.	Restaurants and Dining Room Kitchens (including Works' Canteens and School Kitchens)	33
3.	Food Shops	75
4.	Factories handling Food	18
5.	Fried Fish Shops	8
6.	Ice Cream Retailers	87
7.	Milk - Dealers	51
	Dairies	7
8.	Public Houses	48

APPENDIX "G"REPORTS ON OUTBREAKS OF SCARLET FEVER.(a) Milton Regis County Primary Infants' School

Following the outbreak of Scarlet Fever in December, 1956, a further small outbreak occurred at this School in January, and February, 1957, when 6 cases were notified to the Public Health Department.

Although two of these cases were under School Age it was found, upon investigation, that there was some connection in all cases with the Milton School.

It was decided to take swabs from one Class, which appeared to be the main group concerned, at the Milton Infants' School, and on 5th February, 1957 nose and throat swabs were taken from 30 children and the teacher of this particular Class (62 swabs in all).

The Public Health Laboratory reported that of these 62 swabs, there were two positive Haemolytic Streptococci in respect of nose swabs and three positive Haemolytic Streptococci in respect of throat swabs.

The parents of the five children with positive swabs were circularised on the 7th February, 1957, informing them as to the results of the swabs taken and advising them to take their child to their own Doctor, as well as to keep the child from School until a negative nose or throat (where applicable) swab had been obtained.

The children concerned were treated by their own Doctors and reports received afterwards from the Public Health Laboratory indicated that further swabs taken from these children were negative.

A letter was received from Dr Walker, the Director of the Public Health Laboratory, Maidstone, in connection with typing which indicated as follows:-

'The types of the Haemolytic Streptococci recently reported were:-

5/12/27/44/28

4

The Haemolytic Streptococci from cases and most of the Nasal Carriers previously typed were type 4.

It seems probable that the child type 4 may be responsible for spreading Scarlet Fever.'

The last case was on the 9th February, 1957, and since then no further cases were reported so it appeared that the action taken had this time proved successful in finally clearing up the trouble in this particular School area.

(b) Mission Room School, Canterbury Road

During the month of October, 1957, 3 cases of Scarlet Fever of children aged between 5 and 6 years, were reported as having occurred at the above-mentioned School.

It was decided to take nose and throat swabs from the children and teachers at this School. Nose and throat swabs (182 in all) were taken from 87 children and 4 teachers. A report was received from the Public Health Laboratory at Maidstone to the effect that of these swabs 17 throat and 8 nose swabs were positive for Haemolytic Streptococci.

All the Doctors in the Area were circularised concerning the steps which had been taken, and the Mothers of the children **with** positive results were advised to keep their children from school and to consult their own Medical Attendant. All necessary steps were taken to prevent further spread of this disease.

Since the precautions were carried out at this School, no further cases of Scarlet Fever were reported to the Department up to the end of the year and it was felt that such precautions taken had successfully prevented the spread of the disease at this particular school.

APPENDIX "H"REPORT ON MEASLES EPIDEMIC

The expected Measles epidemic commenced in the Urban District during the third quarter of the Year and reached its peak during the six weeks from the 9th November to 21st December, 1957.

Out of a total number of 737 cases notified during the Year, 593 of these were notified in the fourth quarter of 1957 - 105 cases in October, 258 cases in November and 230 cases in December.

Measles has been classified as a 'notifiable disease' in the Urban District since 1940, and the severity of the epidemic in 1957 will be realised when it is known that records show that on one occasion only has there been a higher incidence, i.e. in 1941 when 959 cases were notified to the Public Health Department.

The following Tables give rather interesting details regarding this epidemic. Table I shows the Weekly totals of cases received during the three months of October, November and December, as compared with notifications received for the County of Kent as a whole; Table II shows the Quarterly figures as against those of the previous epidemic in 1955, when a total of 439 cases were notified; Table III gives extracts from the Weekly Returns received from the Registrar General, showing that on two occasions the notifications received in the Urban District were the second highest; on three occasions were the third highest and on one occasion the fourth highest, for England and Wales as a whole, and Table IV shows the incidence of Measles in the Urban District during the eighteen years in which the disease has been notifiable.

The epidemic continued into January, 1958, when a further 47 notifications were received by the Department.

TABLE I

Week Ended	Notifications Received	
	Sittingbourne & Milton Urban District	County of Kent (as a whole)
1957		
5th October	7	79
12th October	10	66
19th October	30	66
26th October	29	68
2nd November	58	132
9th November	32	74
16th November	76	107
23rd November	62	104
30th November	59	94
7th December	52	83
14th December	52	87
21st December	75	122
28th December	15	26

TABLE IIQuarterly Figures

<u>1955</u>			<u>1957</u>		
1st Quarter ... ..	...	4	1st Quarter ... ..	...	6
2nd Quarter ... ..	...	228	2nd Quarter ... ..	...	14
3rd Quarter ... ..	...	206	3rd Quarter ... ..	...	124
4th Quarter ... ..	...	1	4th Quarter ... ..	...	593
<u>TOTAL</u>			<u>TOTAL</u>		
439			737		

TABLE III

Extracts from Registrar-General's Weekly Returns

<u>Week Ended</u>	<u>Authority</u>	<u>Notifications Received</u>
19th October, 1957	1. Port Talbot M.B.	84
	2. Aylesbury M.B.	33
	3. <u>Sittingbourne & Milton U.D.</u>	<u>30</u>
2nd November, 1957	1. Port Talbot M.B.	115
	2. Burnley C.B.	81
	3. <u>Sittingbourne & Milton U.D.</u>	<u>58</u>
16th November, 1957	1. Port Talbot M.B.	86
	2. <u>Sittingbourne & Milton U.D.</u>	<u>76</u>
23rd November, 1957	1. Middlesbrough C.B.	96
	2. Port Talbot M.B.	76
	3. <u>Sittingbourne & Milton U.D.</u>	<u>62</u>
30th November, 1957	1. Middlesbrough C.B.	88
	2. <u>Sittingbourne & Milton U.D.</u>	<u>59</u>
21st December, 1957	1. Middlesbrough C.B.	148
	2. Swansea C.B.	128
	3. Leicester C.B.	82
	4. <u>Sittingbourne & Milton U.D.</u>	<u>75</u>

TABLE IV

Incidence of Measles - 1940 to 1957

<u>Year</u>	<u>No. of cases notified</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>No. of cases notified</u>
1940	9	1949	222
1941	959	1950	544
1942	7	1951	226
1943	476	1952	297
1944	10	1953	332
1945	364	1954	-
1946	114	1955	439
1947	75	1956	6
1948	438	1957	737

APPENDIX "I"REPORT ON INFLUENZA EPIDEMIC

The Influenza epidemic which was wide-spread throughout the Country, reached the Sittingbourne District towards the last weeks of September.

In Sittingbourne, as in the Areas on the periphery of the Urban District, the first cases appeared generally in the older School Children, who had an absence rate from School varying from 30 to 50%.

During the last few days of September and the first week in October, cases became more frequent among Workers, causing much absence in Industry, and this state of affairs lasted for a period of seven weeks.

The following Table shows the number of First Certificates of inability to work which were issued in Sittingbourne during the period from 24th September to 5th November, 1957, the majority of which being in respect of persons suffering from Influenza.

<u>Week Ended</u> <u>1957</u>	<u>Certificates Issued</u>
24th September	159
1st October	253
8th October	569
15th October	784
22nd October	592
29th October	370
5th November	180

It is obvious from the above figures that the peak period of absenteeism, due to this epidemic was from the 8th until 22nd October. The figure of 784 issued in the week ended 15th October, was the highest recorded for very many years.

It is very pleasing to report that generally speaking, the Influenza was mild and without complications, and no cases of influenzal pneumonia or other notifiable complications were reported.

APPENDIX "J"REPORT ON THE RESULTS OF A SURVEY
CARRIED OUT BY THE MASS RADIOGRAPHY SERVICE IN SITTINGBOURNE

A Survey was carried out in Sittingbourne by the Mid-Kent Mass Radiography Unit, during the period from 1st July to 9th August, 1957 and the following results have kindly been supplied by the Medical Director, Dr G.I. Rees-Jones, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

(a) Survey at Sittingbourne Town Hall

Date: 15th July to 9th August, 1957.

No. of Volunteers:-

Males	1749
Females	2628
Boys	373
Girls	359
Total	5109

No. recalled for
large films:-

Males	81
Females	96
Boys	2
Girls	3
Total	182

% recalled for large films to No. of volunteers - 3.5%

Active T.B. - 6
Inactive T.B. - 45

(b) Survey at A.P.C.M. Murston, Nr Sittingbourne.

Date: 9th July, 1957

No. of Volunteers:-

Males	217
Females	58
Total	275

No. recalled for	Males	8
large films:-	Females	2
	Total	<u>10</u>

% recalled for large films to No. of volunteers - 3.6%

Active T.B. - Nil
Inactive T.B. - 2

(c) Survey at Export Packing Service Limited, Sittingbourne

Date: 18th to 22nd July, 1957

No. of Volunteers:-

Males	228
Females	216
Total	<u>444</u>

No. recalled for	Males	7
large films:-	Females	5
	Totals	<u>12</u>

% recalled for large films to No. of volunteers - 2.6%

Active T.B. - 1
Inactive T.B. - 1

(d) Survey at Bowaters Sittingbourne and Kemsley Division.

Date: 24th July to 9th August, 1957

No. of Volunteers:-

Males	2221
Females	432
Total	<u>2653</u>

No. recalled for	Males	72
large films:-	Females	9
		<hr/>
	Total	81
		<hr/>

% recalled for large films to No. of volunteers - 3%

Active T.B. - 5
Inactive T.B. - 24

(e) Survey at Newington Working Men's Club

Date: 1st and 2nd July, 1957

No. of Volunteers:-

Males	160
Females	173
	<hr/>
Total	333
	<hr/>

No. recalled for	Males	8
large films:-	Females	9
		<hr/>
	Total	17
		<hr/>

% recalled for large films to No. of volunteers - 5%

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SUMMARY

Total No. of Volunteers:-

Males	4575
Females	3507
Boys	373
Girls	359
	<hr/>
Total	8814
	<hr/>

Total No. recalled for
Large Films:-

Males	176
Females	121
Boys	2
Girls	3
	<hr/>
Total	302
	<hr/>

Total Active T.B. - 12

Total Inactive T.B. - 72

